

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00606 060709Z

21

ACTION EA-09

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R 060620Z APR 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5423

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0606

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON CHANG CHUN-CHIAO ON CHOU EN-LAI

1. DANISH AMBASSADOR PALUDAN TOLD US APRIL 3 THAT ON HIS FAREWELL CALL ON VICE PREMIER CHANG CHUN-CHIAO APRIL 2, HE WAS DELAYED BECAUSE, AS HE EXPLAINED TO CHANG, THE GREAT CROWD OF MOURNERS FOR CHOU EN-LAI IN TIEN AN MEN SQUARE HAD PREVENTED HIM FROM REACHING THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE ON TIME. CHANG BRIDLED AND QUICKLY EXPLAINED THAT THE CROWD WAS NOT DUE TO CHOU EN-LAI BUT TO THE CHING MING FESTIVAL, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS A CONFUCIAN FESTIVAL FOR THE DEAD WHICH HAD BEEN CONVERTED BY THE RED GUARDS AS A FESTIVAL TO THE MARTYRS OF THE REVOLUTION. THE CROWD IN TIEN AN MEN SQUARE WAS THERE FOR THIS REASON, AND NOT FOR CHOU. (COMMENT: THE WREATHS WERE THERE, AND THE CROWDS, PREDOMINANTLY IN TRIBUTE TO CHOU.)

2. PALUDAN SAID THAT DURING THE CONVERSATION HE MENTIONED PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI'S CALL FOR THE VREATION OF A POWERFUL MODERN SOCIALIST CHINA DURING THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS IN JANUARY 1975. CHANG CORRECTED HIM, AND SAID THAT THE CALL WAS NOT CHOU EN-LAI'S BUT THE DECISION OF THE PARTY AND CHAIRMAN MAO: CHOU
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EN-LAI WAS MERELY THEIR SPOKESMAN.

THOMAS

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